Resignation and transfer of executives of oil, Duliajan

31. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI D B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred question 1534 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Executives of Oil India Limited have resigned and quit a number of others have sought transfers from Oil India Limited, Duliajan during the last 2 years;

(b) if so, how many Excutives have resigned till date and how many sought their transfer from Duliajan;

(c) what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter as also for streamlining the functioning of Oil India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) During 1986-87 and 1987-88 (upto June, 87) 42 executives have resined and about 300 executives of OIL have sought transfers by way of postings elsewhere/ deputation etc.

(c) the reasons for above may be a desire for a change in location improving career prospects, other personal reasons, besides agitational atmosphere prevailing in Oil's area of operation.

(d) Various issues have been taken up with the State Government by the Central Government from time to time.

Hike in price of slack wax

32. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of slack wax was recently hiked without corresponding increase in the price of paraffin wax;

(b) whether Government propose to import paraffin wax on a large scale in the face of excess indigenous capacity and in spite of thousands of tonnes of unsold paraffin wax lying in the country;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is its likely impact on the paraffin wax units in the country and how does Government propose to save these units from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) With effect from 1-10-1986 the price of slack wax ex-Haldia was reduced substantially while the prices ex-Barauni and ex-Madras were increased. Subsequently the prices have been reduced ex-Barauni, ex-Haldia, ex-Madras w.e.f. 1.2.1987.

(b) to (d) The import of paraffin wax is allowed only in respect of certain grades of paraffin wax in short supply. The should not have any adverse impact on the units processing slack was as they produce different grades of wax from the ones being imported.

Progress in the construction of HBJ Pipeline

33. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in the construction of the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur pipeline and what is the scheduled date of the completion;

(b) the number of fertilizer plants which are proposed to be constructed along with HBJ Pipeline and their locations; and

(c) the number of gas based power plants proposed to be constructed which will utilise the HBJ Pipeline and the locations of such power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The HBJ Pipeline is scheduled to be completed in all respects by July 1989. The first sector of the pipeline from Hazira to Bijapur has been completed and this sector is under commissioning. Work on the second sector from Bijapur to Aonla is under progress.

(b) Six fertilizer plants at Bijapur (Madhya Pradesh), Swaimadhopur (Rajasthan) and Auraiya, Aonla, Babrala and Shahjahanpur (UP) are proposed to be constructed along the HBJ Pipeline.

(c) Three gas based power plants at Kawas (Gujarat), Anta (Rajasthan) and Auraiya (UP) are proposed to be constructed along the HBJ Pipeline. Of these, Kawas is designed to run on liquid fuel apart from gas.

Oil exploration in Orissa

34. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an attempt has been made to explore oil in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil India Limited has conducted seismic and other surveys in 8558 sq. kms. in the Orissa on shore and 28,200 sq. kms in the Mahanadi and North East Coast offshore areas. In Orissa onshore, two wells have been drilled and the third is planned to be drilled shortly. Seven wells have been drilled in the Mahanadi offshore basin. In the North East Coast offshore, three wells have been drilled. No Commercial discovery of hydrocarbons has been made so far.

Production of crude oil by ONGC in Eastern Region

35. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present production of crude oil by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the eastern-region of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate refining capacity for the entire crude oil produced is not available in the eastern-region;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the pipeline capacity to carry oil in the region is inadequate and further production of oil would have to be limited to the pipeline capacity; and

(d) if so, what is the proposal to increase the pipeline capacity and refining capacity of the crude oil in the eastern-region of the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The target of production of crude oil by ONGC in the Eastern Region during 1987-88 is 2.8 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) The total capacity of the refineries at Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Barauni is 5.5 million tonnes and the capacity of the pipeline feeding these refineries is 5.2 million tonnes. In addition, the Digboi refinery has a capacity of 0.5 million tonnes along with sufficient pipeline transportation facility. This is con-